

# YOSEMITE SEQUOIA

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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Department of Water Resources

DIRWM

PO BOX 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Attention: Joe Yun

December 23, 2010

Re: Madera County and Southern Sierra IRWM Planning Grant Applications

Dear Mr. Yun,

The Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council represents over 20 organizations, including Tribal governments – as well as four Board of Supervisors from Mariposa, Madera, Fresno and Tulare County that wish to respond to the denial of the Madera County and Southern Sierra IRWM Planning grant applications recently reviewed by the California Department of Resources.

There is a general understanding that there are only so many resources available to the IRWM program on a statewide basis. However, based on the outcome of grants to be awarded – again, a severely disadvantaged part of California in the foothill and mountain region of the Sierra Nevada has been left out of any meaningful way in which to develop the capacity and capability to protect one of the most vital resources in the state of California at its source – an abundant and high quality supply of water that serves the needs of our urban and rural communities; agriculture and the environment.

Most of the region that we serve is severely disadvantaged. Yet today, our organization is not aware of any watershed; water resource management and/or planning initiatives that are being supported by the Department of Water Resources in the Sierra Nevada region that we serve – excepting for one Groundwater Local Assistance Program grant for \$50,000 in eastern Fresno County. Our concern being expressed is the magnitude of the inequity impacting a region of California that is economically disadvantaged – and with significant natural resource protection and enhancement challenges. Most of the participants involved in the process were minimally compensated – if at all. And the grant proposals were developed on a collaborative basis with local representatives of the Department of Water Resources – whom of which thoroughly understood the rationale, purpose, and funding allocations for each of these two applicants and their proposals as submitted.

Again, our concern is whether DWR's reviewers consulted with those within the Agency who closely participated in the development of these two proposals. And, secondly – why again was the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada region not funded in an equitable way – since it is one of the most severely disadvantaged regions of California? Our Council requests reconsideration of these two very important applications.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler, President  
Chair, Madera County Board of Supervisors



Steve Haze, Vice President  
Executive Director